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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Jan 19 1978

ACTION
is assigned to

EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 2-26-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Department of State
Congressional Liaison

Sir:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration. Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

PHILLIP BURTON
6th CA
M. C.

reply to: 2454 RHOB
Washington D.C. 20515
attn TERRI
ext. 225-4965

Re prob at US Embassy in Guyana caused by dncit, Timothy C. Stoen over child custody case

From [redacted] E B6 E B6

(3)

January 15, 1978

Senator John Sparkman, Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
4229 DSOB
Washington, D. C. 20510

JAN 19 1978

Dear Senator Sparkman:

By profession I am a high school teacher. I am a member of the local Republican Central Committee, P. E. O. Chapter, and have served as president of a branch of the American Heart Association. Currently I am a member of the Board of Directors of the many thousand member Christian denomination to which I belong. I have travelled throughout Europe, Canada, and South America both on scholarships and in the capacity of missionary. The credentials are meager, and I only cite them to represent myself to you as a concerned and involved American citizen who is bringing to your attention a matter of importance regarding the image of our country abroad.

It appears that a North American who is currently in South America (Guyana) for the purpose of prosecuting a legal matter, specifically a custody case, was on a brief visa issued to him by the Guyanese government. Mr. Stoen, the individual in question, begged or connived the U. S. Embassy representative, Mr. Richard McCoy, to intervene for him and see that he be allowed to stay in the country beyond the period of time alloted to him by the host country. He convinced Mr. McCoy to call the airline and cancel his plane flight out that he might stay longer, with the blessings of the U. S. government, to pursue his case further.

Evidently Mr. McCoy obliged him and exercised power which superseded the directive of the Guyanese government to Mr. Stoen. I cannot know what his motives were for doing this, but the act itself has caused waves of shock among Guyanese and among North Americans who are familiar with the situation.

In view of the improved relations with this and other Caribbean nations which the current administration in Washington has been so careful to cultivate, I should think the use of this kind of pressure would be a real source of concern for the State Department. I am fairly familiar with the political trends in the Caribbean and understand the countries of that region are on a see-saw between their allegiances to Communist-block countries and to the West. As a former colony, the country where this particular incident has taken place is very sensitive to foreign intrusion of any sort, on any level. I think our heavy-handed manipulation of internal events there can only prove foolhardy and detrimental to our interests in the long run.

With respect,

[redacted]

Congressman Phillip Burton

E 86

7957

[redacted] E 56

January 14, 1978

Mr. Theodore Heavner, Director
Bureau of Inter-American Affairs
Office of Caribbean Affairs
U.S. State Department
Main State Building
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Heavner:

A disturbing set of events has come to my attention which I think warrants your consideration, concerning the relationship of our country with a Latin American small nation, Guyana. Up to this point, I understand that newly independent Guyana has neither aligned herself with the East nor the Soviets, but the incidents I have heard described may tip the scale, away from the U.S., if we don't take heed soon.

A Mr. Timothy O. Stoen, an American citizen, absorbed in a custody battle in which his own paternity is of question, has seen fit to stir up hostile waters in Guyana in hopes of swaying the Guyanese courts to his perspective. His methods are outrageous, the ultimate "[illegible]ly American", and the effect has backfired on him to the effect that the Guyanese are offended and insulted by his deceptions. A poor representative of the U.S., I'm afraid.

Mr. Stoen traveled to Guyana, and had the nerve to declare he was sent there by a Guyanese government officer, when there was no basis to this claim at all. He went so far as to have various telephone calls placed, to the court in which his custody suit was being heard. The calls were found to be made on the scene, yet the callers claimed they were members of the American government calling long distance on Mr. Stoen's behalf. The result was that the Guyanese were not fooled; the deception failed but it succeeded in bolstering any existing doubts and suspicions as to the United States' efforts at communication with Guyana.

The long-range effects, however, are disturbing and that is why I wrote you. In your position, I think it is worth your time to consider the negative influence towards the U.S. Mr. Stoen has managed to convey in Guyana. My concern is that the Guyanese will see his maneuvers as interference and further alienate them from any hoped-for meaningful relationship with the U.S. The past year's efforts of our country at communication with the Carribean countries, with visits by Mrs. Carter and Ambassador Young, have been indeed encouraging. The signing of the Panama Treaty brought many Carribean leaders to the U.S., including Guyanese. Yet now, with this interference on the part of Mr. Stoen, I fear that the inroads gained through the past year may have been lost. The Guyanese are a proud people. A history of foreign colonialism has brought them a distrust of "outsiders," which can be broached through reasonable, mutually respective relations. I therefore request that you do all within your power to see that such interference in Guyanese internal affairs ceases. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Congressman Phillip Burton

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